ACTION:
The Northern Illinois Conference recommends the following Special Sundays with offerings for 2018:

**Special Sundays**

**General Church Offering 2018**
- Human Relations Day: January 14, 2018
- UMCOR Sunday: March 11, 2018
- Native American Ministries Sunday: April 15, 2018
- Peace with Justice Sunday: May 27, 2018
- World Communion Sunday: October 7, 2018
- United Methodist Student Day: November 24, 2018

**Conference Offerings 2018**
- Scouting Ministries: Any Sunday in February or March*
- Golden Cross: May 6, 2018
- Volunteers in Mission: Any Sunday in July or August
- Christian Education: September 2, 2018
- Accessibility Sunday: November 4, 2018
- HIV/AIDS Awareness: December 2, 2018
- United Voices for Children: Every 5th Sunday (April, July, September, December)

* This fund supports Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, 4-H, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and Amachi programs.
I. Health Insurance
The Conference Board of Pensions recommends that the Annual Conference establish the following policies and procedures for administration of the Conference Health Care Program, effective January 1, 2018.

A. Mandatory Coverage
1. The following categories of employees are mandated to participate in the Annual Conference health insurance program. In all cases, the spouses, and dependents (such as children) of eligible employees may enroll in the health plan at the election of the participant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elder in full connection (including those from another Methodist denomination and those from another conference) appointed to full-time or service to a conference local church or campus ministry</td>
<td>338.1, 346.1, 338.1, 346.1, .2, &amp;,.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate member appointed to full-time service</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional Members on elder track appointed to full-time local church service</td>
<td>326.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A full-time local pastor who is under Episcopal appointment to a charge located in the conference</td>
<td>318.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordained Elder appointed to extension ministries within the connectional structure to a unit of the conference other than a General Agency</td>
<td>344.1, &amp; 346.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Elders appointed to disability status will be covered under the conference plan until they are eligible for Medicare or for Social Security disability at the cost of the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. The Conference Board of Pensions will cover the full cost of those Elders appointed to disability status and covered by Medicare and Supplemental Social Security disability coverage.

B. Release from Mandatory Coverage
Based on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the ability for individuals to gain coverage on the public exchange, churches can elect to opt out of the Wespath/NIC mandated health programs (HealthFlex).

To elect this option the Churches agree to the following:
1. Agree to pay the monthly HealthCare premium established by the Conference Board of Pensions.
2. Each quarter the Churches will receive a rebate of one month’s premium of the HealthCare premium.
3. The maximum amount the Conference Board of Pensions will provide in cash is $900 per month to support clergy to engage a health carrier on the exchange plus and to pay for additional personal taxes. The amount provided by the Conference is considered as cash compensation only.
The objective of allowing Churches to opt out of HealthFlex is to provide a means to help Churches lower the cost of medical insurance and be able to maintain the full services of United Methodist clergy.

The Conference Board of Pensions can also release a clergy person from mandatory participation in HealthFlex at its discretion when:

a. The clergy person is eligible for health coverage through TRICARE, or Champus.

b. The clergy is enrolled in coverage from a former employer or as a dependent on a spouse’s employer-provided coverage. The Conference will treat the participant as if they were enrolled in the pilot program and bill the church as explained in Section B.

C. Local Church and Extension Ministry Coverage Options

1. A local church or extension ministry may elect health insurance in the conference plan available to participants in the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Discipline 2016</th>
<th>Billed for Active’s Premium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordained elder appointed to extension ministries within the</td>
<td>344.1a(3), 344.1a(4), 344.1b,</td>
<td>Salary Paying Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connectional structure (other than a unit of the conference or general</td>
<td>344.1d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agency), within an ecumenical agency, within a GBHEM endorsed extension</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ministry outside the connectional structure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordained clergy from another denomination (other than UMC) appointed to</td>
<td>346.2, 346.3, 338.2, 346.1</td>
<td>Salary Paying Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>half-time or more service to a Conference local church or a unit of the</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional, Associate or full clergy member granted voluntary leave of</td>
<td>354.1, 354.2</td>
<td>Participant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>absence not to exceed 1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy member of the Annual Conference granted Sabbatical Leave for up</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>Board of Ordained Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to one year.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy member of the Annual Conference granted Medical leave.</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>Board of Pensions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deacon in full connection appointed to ¾ or full-time basis in a</td>
<td>331.1a, 331.1b</td>
<td>Salary Paying Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conference local church, beyond the local church, or UMC related</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agencies and schools.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Provisional member on the Deacon track appointed to serve on a full</td>
<td>326.1</td>
<td>Salary Paying Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time or ¾ time basis to an NIC congregation or to the conference.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75% of the Lay Employees of a local church in the conference normally</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scheduled to work at least 30 hours per week inclusive of a calendar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. In accord with Illinois law, state recognized civil union partners of lay employees are eligible for coverage in a manner similar to spouses.
3. The option to offer coverage is made by the salary paying unit. The choice to accept the coverage shall be made by the participant. The salary paying unit may elect to offer health insurance to one or all categories of persons listed above in Section C.1. The salary paying unit must make health insurance available to and will be billed for all persons within any specific category employed with the agency or local church.

4. Each salary paying unit must execute annually a sub-adoption agreement with the annual conference, should they desire to offer health coverage to persons in these categories.

5. These categories of persons are also eligible for coverage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Billed for Active’s Premium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75% of the Lay Employees of the Annual Conference (and Districts) who normally work 30 hours per week or more</td>
<td>Salary Paying Unit and/or participant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surviving spouse or dependent children enrolled in the health plan at time of a participant’s death</td>
<td>Participant pay 25%, Salary Paying Unit (or Board of Pensions) 75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced spouse enrolled in the plan at time of divorce for 2 years or in accordance with State and Federal law or court order</td>
<td>Divorced Spouse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. Retirement Health Administration –

1. Clergy persons eligible for and enrolled in the health plan or participating in the pilot program, or waived under their spouses plan at Mandatory Retirement (Discipline paragraph 358.1), Early Retirement (Discipline paragraph 358.2b), Full Retirement (Discipline Paragraph 358.2c), or Involuntary Retirement (Discipline paragraph 358.3) are eligible for health benefits in retirement through the conference plan. No clergy member retiring under the “20 year rule” (Discipline paragraph 358.2a) is eligible for retiree health coverage.

2. A clergy spouse (or surviving spouse after death of an active member) enrolled in the health plan 5 consecutive years before retirement or enrolled when first eligible for coverage (and prior to participant’s retirement) is eligible for coverage after retirement. The family status of the participant cannot change during retirement, except in cases of adoption, childbirth or death. Participants electing to not participate in retirement health plan at time of retirement may not elect to enroll at a later time.

3. Upon retirement the annual conference shall establish a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) for the household in the retiree’s name. Participants and their spouses who meet the retiree eligibility rules under BOB 358.2 may use the funds in the HRA to pay for medical expenses including premiums, co-pays, deductibles, dental services, medical services, coinsurance, etc. Like a savings account, the funds do not need to be expended by the end of the calendar year and balances roll forward when unused.

4. Annually, the annual conference shall deposit into each retiree’s HRA an amount equal to $100 per year of ministerial service. An additional amount of $100 per year of service shall be deposited into the HRA account during the retired participant’s spouse’s lifetime. A maximum of 40 years of service is applied to this calculation.

5. Ministerial service years are determined by the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. Only years served in the Northern Illinois Conference are considered in the HRA calculation.

6. Full Time Lay Conference employees of the annual conference with 5 continuous years of coverage before retirement will have a contribution equal to $100 per year of service.
to the annual conference deposited in their HRA annually. Eligibility for the HRA is contingent on a participant’s enrollment in Medicare B and engagement with One Exchange. Enrollment and contribution schedules are established each year by the Annual Conference. The Northern Illinois Conference makes no promise of future contributions. This resolution establishes rates for 2018 only. Retirees and active members of the plan shall not rely on prior or present benefit offerings as a commitment for the future. The annual conference, at its discretion, may eliminate funding of health insurance to retired persons.

7. The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits engages One Exchange to aid clergy retirees aged 65 and above in selection of suitable Medicare supplement coverage and to act as patient advocate when necessary. To receive the HRA benefit eligible participants must enroll though the One Exchange program and be enrolled in Medicare B. Clergy who retire prior to 65 and meet the eligibility rules to retire under BOD 358.2 will have the HRA equivalent deducted from the cost of their medical coverage until they reach Medicare eligibility, enroll in Medicare B and enroll through One Exchange.

E. Active Health Administration

1. Monthly premiums are billed to each charge or salary-paying unit at rates established by the Conference Board of Pensions. Premiums are due the first of each month. Accounts 90 days in arrears are subject to termination as explained in the arrearage policy approved by the Board and the NIC Cabinet. This policy describes the efforts that will be made by the Conference office and the Cabinet to work with Churches that are more than 90 days in arrears. If all efforts to receive payment or develop a payment plan have been exhausted then termination of coverage may be the final option. Notification of accounts in arrears will be provided to the District Superintendent, the pastor, the local church PPRC chair, and the local church treasurer prior to termination.

Active participants seeking to enroll in the Flexible Spending Account Benefit provided by the plan must enroll in November of the year preceding the year of the agreement. Inquiries on billings and enrollment should be directed to the Conference Benefits Administrator, LaMeise Turner, at (312) 346-9766, ext. 720. Problem resolution and inquiries regarding coverage should be directed to the HealthFlex Team of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits at 1-800-851-2201.

II. Pension Programs

A. Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). The General Conference established the CRSP as the primary pension program for United Methodist clergy in 2004. Mandatory participation is required when both 1 and 2 are met:

1. The clergy member relationship to the conference is as a:
   a. Commissioned Members (Deacon or Elder)
   b. Elders in Full Connection
   c. Members of Other Conferences appointed in the Northern Illinois Conference (paragraph 346.1 appointments)
   d. Full Time Local Pastors
   e. Deacons in Full Connection
   f. Members of other denomination, appointed to service in an NIC local church
      if no other pension is provided by their denomination.
2. The clergy member is under Episcopal appointment half-time or more to the
   following service types:
   a. to local churches in the Northern Illinois Conference
   b. to the Conference (staff or Cabinet)
   c. to a Conference controlled entity (such as a campus ministry or ORM)
   d. to Incapacity leave with CPP benefits

3. In order to waive participation, a half-time or more appointed clergy member must
   sign a waiver form at time of appointment. Please note that persons assigned, but
   not appointed are not eligible in the program.

4. Local churches are encouraged to enroll as a plan sponsor of UMPIP and to make
   employer contributions into the accounts of clergy appointed quarter-time.

B. Clergy Retirement Security Program Billing Schedule. Local Churches shall be billed by
   the Annual Conference at the following rates (“plan compensation” means compensation as
   defined by the pension plan documents and includes both cash salary plus consideration for
   housing):

1. Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). The Comprehensive Protection Plan is the
   primary death and disability benefit for enrolled clergy. The billing rate for CPP will be
   3% of plan compensation, up to 200% of Denominational Average Compensation.
   Appointments with compensation at less than 60% of DAC or CAC and those that were
   considered under special arrangements will be covered and billed based on rates
   established by UMLifeOptions.

2. CRSP – Defined Contribution
   a. The CRSP pension program includes a defined contribution component. Each
      clergy member will have 2% of plan compensation deposited in an individual
      account at the Wespath. All contributions into the account are invested and the
      enrolled clergy member receives the appreciated value of the account upon
      retirement.
   b. 3% of the plan compensation shall be required from each charge for the defined
      contribution component of the CRSP.
   c. Clergy persons are encouraged to contribute 1% of their plan compensation into
      their UMPIP account as a salary deduction. The annual conference will match
      the first 1% of UMPIP contributions paid into the participants CRSP-DC account.

3. CRSP – Defined Benefit program. With the defined benefit component each enrolled
   clergy member will receive a monthly cash benefit from the plan upon retirement. The
   amount of the benefit is determined by the number of full-time-equivalent years in the
   program and the denominational average compensation at the time of retirement.
   Annual contributions made by the conference will be invested by the Wespath so that
   the NIC obligation can be met. 10% of plan compensation is billed to each appointment
   for the defined benefit component of CRSP. A portion of defined benefit funding
   accrues to a reserve fund for funding future variation in market results and other
   benefits to retirees and future retirees.

C. Billing Methods. The Annual Conference will invoice local churches monthly the 16% (3% +
   3% + 10%) of clergy plan compensation required for support of the CRSP and CPP programs.

D. Pre-82 Defined Benefit Past Service Rate for 2018
   1. The Conference Board of Pensions recommends that the annual pension rate for
      service prior to 1982, effective January 1, 2018, be $605 per service year, an increase of 0% from
2017. Surviving spouses shall be supported at the rate of 85% of participant pension benefit amounts. Special grants will be provided as identified in Section F.

E. Excludable Housing allowance for retired clergy. In accordance with the Private Ruling Letter from the Internal Revenue Service, the Northern Illinois Conference Annual Conference Session reaffirms the limits to housing allowance exclusion for retired and disabled clergy found in the Standing Rules, at Section IV. C. 1, which states: Disabled clergy have the same legal relationship to an Annual Conference as do the retired clergy and, thus, this Conference is also the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for disabled ordained or local pastors who are members of this Conference.

An amount equal to 100% of the pension payments received by a retired clergy, or 100% of the disability payments received by a disabled clergy, is designated as rental/housing allowance respectively for each retired or disabled ordained or local pastor of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of the Northern Illinois Conference at the time of retirement or disability.

F. Special Grants

1 For 2018, the conference extends Special Grants of $13 per year of pre-82 service to clergy persons and surviving spouses who are:
   a. Members of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference who retired from an appointment in the conference;
   b. Who have at least 15 years of service prior to 1982 compensated at the Past Service Rate (excludes those at the DBSM rate); and,
   c. Who have less than 10 years of service to Northern Illinois Conference appointments served while enrolled in the MPP program.

2 The Conference Board of Pensions also recommends that a special grant be made to Vidal Cordova, for his three (3) years of service with this Annual Conference. We recommend for the year commencing July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, a grant of $237 per year payable monthly at $19.75.

3 The Conference Board of Pensions also recommends the special grant previously given to Vernon L. Bell be continued for his widow, Enid. Mr. Bell died March 17, 1995. He served 11 years as a full member of the Northern Illinois Conference from June 13, 1954, to August 15, 1965. He took voluntary Leave of Absence from 1965 and Honorable Location in 1966. The service rate at the time of his voluntary location was $77. Thus, we recommend for the year commencing July 1, 2017, to June 30 2018, a grant be paid to Mrs. Bell of $847, actuarially reduced in the same manner as if this grant was paid under the Methodist Ministers Reserve Pension Fund for payments commencing after early retirement date and prior to normal retirement date. Payments shall be paid monthly.

4 The Conference Board of Pensions also recommends that a special grant be made to James W. French for his 3.5 years of service with this Annual Conference from June 1, 1978 through December 31, 1981. We recommend for the year commencing July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, a grant of $140.95 monthly be paid based on the present pension rate, but actuarially reduced since payments are starting prior to full retirement age.

III. Group Life Insurance

The Conference Board of Pensions enrolls in the UMLifeOptions program. Every eligible retired clergy person will be enrolled in the plan with a benefit of $5,000 at no cost to the participant. Active clergy persons have $10,000 in coverage at the NIC expense when an
application is filed during the open enrollment period. Coverage beyond this amount is at the
cost of the participant and will be billed directly from UMLifeOptions.

Document: 700.01 (referred to The United Methodist Foundation and the authors for
reconsideration in 2018)
Name: Northern Illinois Annual Conference Divestment from Fossil Fuels
Author(s): Melissa Brice & Chris Stefko, members Urban Village Church, Chicago; Irving
Park United Methodist Church, Chicago; Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church, Oak
Park; The Inclusive Collective – The University of Illinois Campus Ministry; Jessie
Cunningham, Northern Illinois Conference Co-Lay Leader & member St. Andrew United
Methodist Church, Homewood; Rev. Dr. Timothy R. Eberhart, Garrett-Evangelical
Theological Seminary and member First United Methodist Church, Evanston
CCFA Comment: CCFA Comment will be coming – it will be an additional download
available on the Conference website no later than May 9.

ACTION:
The Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church shall not knowingly
make investments in any company or entity whose core business activity involves the
production of petroleum, natural gas, or coal by January 1, 2018. Core business activity refers to
a company’s primary, or central focus of activity and is an essential element in the company’s
economic success. A “core business” is one that accounts for 10% or more of a company’s
revenue derived from the objectionable products and/or services. In addition, the Northern
Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church shall require that the United
Methodist Foundation of the Northern Illinois Conference add a similar investment screen to its
holdings and investments, also by January 1, 2018.

RATIONALE:
The United Methodist Church has acknowledged the risks of fossil fuel dependence for
the last 35 years through its Energy Policy Statement in the Book of Resolutions para. 1001.
These risks include contributing to catastrophic climate change and endangering human health.
The United States ratified The Paris Agreement, whose central aim is to strengthen the global
response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well
below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the
temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The extraction and burning of
petroleum, coal and natural gas contribute to the temperature rise, thus requiring that the vast
majority of the world’s fossil fuels be left in the ground to avoid the worst impacts of climate
change. The United Methodists live and serve on the front lines of extreme weather events that
will increase in frequency and severity with climate change. Limiting climate change requires
that most fossil fuel reserves stay underground. The world urgently needs a just transition to
sustainable energy.

In regards to human health, the processes and byproducts related to the extraction of
petroleum, coal and natural gas are damaging to the health of people who work in these
industries as well as those who live on or near extraction sites (i.e. increased instances of asthma
and cancer). Continued investment in fossil fuels undermines The United Methodist Church’s ministries with young people and vulnerable people.

The investment policy goals of The United Methodist Church as outlined in the Book of Resolutions para. 4071 include investing in corporations, companies, institutions or funds making a positive contribution to the realization of the goals outlined in the Social Principles and the Book of Resolutions, and exclude investing in companies that violate church values. The Social Principles state that climate change will bring “severe environmental, economic, and social implications,” which will “disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions.” Fossil fuel free indices are becoming more readily available to meet demand brought forth through the $5.4 trillion dollar fossil fuel divestment movement. The New York and Pacific Northwest Conferences have already committed to divestment and the Northern Illinois Conference should contribute to the demand for a fossil free future.

**Document: 700.03 (passed in plenary 6/6/2017)**
**Name: Election of Delegates for General Conference 2020**
**Authors: NIC General/Jurisdictional Conference Delegation 2016, Reconciling Ministry Network, Methodist Federation for Social Action**
**CCFA Comment:**

**ACTION:**
The election of the Northern Illinois Conference lay and clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference 2020 shall take place during the 2019 session of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference.

**RATIONALE:**
Since a special session of General Conference has been proposed for the Spring of 2019, it would be appropriate to wait for the outcome of that Conference to elect the next delegation, who would then meet and prepare for the upcoming 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The needs of the Northern Illinois Conference might shift, individuals’ own sense of calling to participate might change, and the preparatory work might unfold differently based on the outcome of a Special Session. It seems to be prudent to wait to elect a new delegation until after the 2016 delegation has completed their quadrennium’s work.

**Document: 700.04 (passed on Consent Calendar 6/5/2017)**
**Name: Discontinuance of Bethany United Methodist Church of Itasca**
**Author(s): Rev. Darneather Murph-Heath, District Superintendent, Elgin District, UMC**
**CCFA Comment:**

(Please note: The “Whereas/Be it resolved” format is being used for legal reasons).

**ACTION:**
WHEREAS the BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH located in Itasca, Du Page County, Illinois was formed in (Elk Grove Village), and moved to Itasca in 1924, and has witnessed to Jesus Christ and served its communities and the world for 158 years; and

WHEREAS the Bethany United Methodist Church faithfully served the community in the city of Itasca and boldly risked themselves in this effort; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549.1a of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, the Elgin District Superintendent has recommended with the approval of the District Strategy Team that the church be discontinued effective December 24, 2016. The Elgin District Committee on Building and Location has voted to concur with the District Superintendent’s recommendation to discontinue said church and the presiding Bishop and the majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church have consented to the District Superintendent’s recommendation to discontinue said church;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to minimize the risk of loss of future bequests to the Conference, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference recommends that the said Church, though discontinued under the Canon Law of The United Methodist Church, nevertheless be maintained in perpetuity under the Illinois civil law by adopting a reincorporation thereof by the Bishop under Section 46b of the Illinois Religious Corporation Act, with the incumbent Conference Board of Trustees names as trustees of the Discontinued Church under the procedure established by Article VII “Discontinued or Abandoned Church Reincorporation” of the By-laws of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the property of said Church, including, but not limited to its existing and future gifts, devises, and bequests, its existing personal property and accounts and its real property commonly known as 404 Walnut, Itasca, Illinois 60143-1735 and legally described as follows:

Of Lot 4 (except the North 25.0 feet thereof) and all of the Lots 5, 6, 7, and 8 in Block 5 of Clover’s First Addition to Itasca, a subdivision in the Northwest quarter of Section B, Township 40 North, Range 11, East of the Third Principle Meridian, in DuPage County, Illinois.

Shall, in the discretion of the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, be either:

- a. Retained by the reincorporated shell Illinois religious corporation referred to above pending sale or other disposition; or
- b. Transferred to The Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church be authorized and directed to provide for the care, maintenance, and disposition of the said assets and shall dispose of said assets in accordance with the relevant provisions of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016; and that any monies or other assets received from the sale or other disposition of the assets of said discontinued Church be deposited in the Closed Church Fund as directed by Section V, Part A, Rule 11 of the Standing Rules of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be transferred to the
Prince of Peace United Methodist Church in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, unless any such
members shall inform the pastor of the transferee church otherwise; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois Annual
Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed to execute on behalf of
the said Conference any and all such additional documents as legal counsel shall recommend to
effectuate the above.

RATIONALE:
After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ, Bethany
United Methodist Church of Itasca has come to a place of transition and closure as membership
and attendance have declined. The congregation has expressed its desire to celebrate its past
ministry but to no longer remain in service as Bethany UMC of Itasca. The closure has been
recommended by the Elgin District Board on Buildings and Location and the District
Superintendent.

Document: 700.05  (passed on Consent Calendar 6/5/2017)
Name: Advocating for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation
Author(s): Paula Roderick, Member, Broadway UMC; Reconciling Ministries Network;
Northern Illinois Conference Chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Action.
CCFA Comment:

ACTION:
The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church calls upon President
Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to adhere to our
own established law, the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act, by withholding military assistance from
Israel due to its practices of arrest and detention of Palestinian children. NIC further calls upon
the U.S. to join with 194 other nations in ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights
of the Child. A letter to this effect will be sent to the President, Vice President, and Secretary of
State and will be made available for all NIC United Methodists to affirm singly or by
congregations. NIC further urges clergy and lay leaders to write their members of Congress to
express concerns regarding the treatment of Palestinian children arrested by Israeli forces in
Occupied Palestine and to support efforts demanding immediate protections for Palestinian
children held in military detention.

RATIONALE:
Israel is the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes children in military
courts. Each year approximately 700 children enter the Israeli military detention system. In a
landmark study of this system, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reported that ill
treatment in the Israeli military detention system remains “widespread, systematic, and
institutionalized throughout the process.” The U.S. Foreign Assistance Act specifies that no
military assistance be given to any country that “engages in a consistent pattern of gross
violation of internationally recognized human rights.” On at least eleven previous occasions the
U.S. has withheld assistance from countries based on human rights violations. Violations
against Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system have been well documented
for years, not only by the U.S. State Department but also by numerous highly respected Israeli,
Palestinian and international human rights organizations. See, e.g., Defence for Children
International - Palestine, No Way To Treat A Child, http://nwttac.dci-palestine.org. This vast
assemblage of data confirming ongoing widespread ill treatment of children in Israeli military
detention gives ample justification to withhold military assistance, as specified in the U.S.
Foreign Assistance Act.

Further, the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by every single
member of the United Nations except the United States. Israel has signed and ratified this
convention, and is thus required to adhere to its provisions regarding treatment of detained
children. Ratification of the Convention by the United States would bring stronger international
pressure on Israel to comply with the Convention’s provisions, including for the treatment of
children held in detention. Ratification by the U.S. also would underscore our nation’s
responsibility for humane treatment of all children, including the disproportionate number of
black and brown children held in U.S. prisons.

Discipleship requires solidarity with the vulnerable and the oppressed. Children are deserving
of special protections from injustice and violence.

Document: 700.06  (passed on Consent Calendar 6/5/2017)
Name: Consider Investing in WESPATH Equity Social Values Plus Fund (ESVPF)
Author(s): Paula Roderick, Member, Broadway UMC; Reconciling Ministries Network,
Northern Illinois Conference Chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Action

ACTION:
The Northern Illinois Conference encourages clergy and lay employee participants in Wespath
funds as well as the annual conference to consider ESVPF for the portion of their accounts
invested in equities.

RATIONALE:
The Equity Social Values Plus Fund (ESVPF) is available for participant defined contribution
accounts and conference deposit accounts with Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath).
Wespath has developed a policy that may remove companies named by seven to ten annual
conferences in divestment resolutions from its ESVPF (http://www.wespath.org/assets/1/7/investment_policy.pdf).

Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett Packard are the subject of such resolutions and
have been removed from the ESVPF per Wespath’s policy.

While Wespath as a financial institution does not take a stand on the reasons conferences have
voted to divest from these three companies, they have responded to serve those clients by
providing the ESVPF.

In 2010 and 2012, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference adopted resolutions calling for
divestment from companies complicit in the Israeli occupation, and the 2012 legislation specifically petitioned the United Methodist General Conference of 2012 to approve divestment from Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions and Hewlett Packard.

Caterpillar Inc. provides military bulldozers and earth-moving equipment which are used to uproot olive groves, demolish Palestinian homes, construct illegal settlements and build segregated roads and the separation barrier on occupied land; Motorola Solutions provides surveillance systems for illegal settlements, military bases and the separation wall as well as communication devices for the Israeli military; and Hewlett Packard provides data storage for settlements, manages information technology for the Israeli Navy, and provides biometric monitoring of checkpoints inside the West Bank, and

For up to ten years many religious investors and ecumenical groups have asked these companies to stop selling their products to the Israeli government for use in sustaining and maintaining the military occupation and settlement building and they have refused (https://www.kairosresponse.org/corporate_engagement_04-11.html).


Document: 700.07 (passed on Consent Calendar 6/5/2017)
Name: On Holy Land Travel
Author(s): NIC Reconciling Ministries Network Taskforce; Northern Illinois Conference Chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Action
CCFA Comment:

ACTION:
The Northern Illinois Conference strongly urges that clergy, laity, and seminary students of the NIC who are planning individual or group tours to Israel/Palestine consult with the Methodist Liaison Office (MLO) in Jerusalem (admin@methodist-jer.org and encounter@methodist-jer.org) to seek opportunities to meet with United Methodist missionaries living and working in the region, visit United Methodist supported mission sites, worship with indigenous Christian congregations and include in their tours at least one overnight stay in Bethlehem in accordance with the 2016 Resolution #6031. Travelers are further urged to read the Kairos Palestine Document: “A Moment of Truth: A word of faith, hope and love,” and study the United Methodist Book of Resolutions with particular attention to Resolution #6111 and other resolutions dealing with Palestine, settlements in the West Bank, boycotting settlement products, interfaith relations, indigenous peoples, anti-Semitism, racism and human rights.

RATIONALE:
Indigenous Palestinian Christians have asked their fellow Christians around the world to meet
with them when visiting the Holy Land, stating: “We intend to fulfill our role to make known to you the truth of our reality, receiving you as pilgrims coming to us to pray, carrying a message of peace, love and reconciliation. You will know the facts and the people of this land, Palestinians and Israelis alike.” (Kairos Palestine Document: http://kairospalestine.ps/index.php/about-us/kairos-palestine-document); and

United Methodist mission personnel past and present have for many years invited United Methodists to “come and see” what they have seen during their time in the Holy Land (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKb8SYVB8KQ) and likewise have asked that those planning individual or group tours to Israel/Palestine both “consult with the United Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem to seek opportunities to worship with indigenous Christian congregations” and “visit United Methodist supported mission sites;” (2016 United Methodist Book of Resolutions #6031; and,

The conflict in the Holy Land has been raised repeatedly in General Conference resolutions, and understanding of the issue is critical to informed discussion among United Methodist laity and clergy (2016 United Methodist Book of Resolutions #6111).

Document: 700.09  (passed on Consent Calendar 6/5/2017)
Name: Pass a Fair, Balanced Illinois Budget
Authors: NIC Methodist Federation for Social Action and NIC Reconciling Ministries Network Taskforce
CCFA Comment:

ACTION:
The Northern Illinois Conference calls upon Governor Rauner, President of the Senate John Cullerton, and Speaker of the House Michael Madigan to end the stalemate and pass a fair and balanced budget for the State of Illinois. A letter to this effect will be sent to Governor Rauner, Senator Cullerton and Speaker Madigan and will be made available for all Northern Illinois United Methodists to affirm by sending as individuals or congregations.

RATIONALE:
Illinois has been without a budget since June, 2015. This has put social service organizations, the homeless, and college students in an especially difficult position. Cuts to care for seniors, afterschool programs, counseling for assault victims, drug and alcohol rehab programs threaten too many vulnerable Illinoisans. Mathew 25 calls upon us to care for those less fortunate, and yet in this budget stalemate, it is those very people that are the most affected. We must hold our Illinois Administration accountable to the people of Illinois and end the stalemate, agree on a budget, and fund the programs that care for the people of Illinois.

Document: 700.10  (passed on Consent Calendar 6/5/2017)
Name: Care for the Environment
**Authors:** NIC Methodist Federation for Social Action and NIC Reconciling Ministries
**Network Taskforce**

**CCFA Comment:**

**ACTION:**
The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church calls upon President Donald Trump and Scott Pruitt, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take steps to ensure that actions taken in the past to protect our clean air and water and to reduce the harmful effects of climate change be safe-guarded in future legislation or executive actions. A letter to this effect will be sent to President Trump and Scott Pruitt, and will be made available for all Northern Illinois United Methodists to affirm by sending as individuals or congregations.

**RATIONALE:**
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as said “Scientific evidence for warming of the climate system is unequivocal. Ninety-seven percent of scientists believe climate change is very likely human caused, and it is proceeding at a rate that is unprecedented in the past 1300 years. According to NASA, evidence for rapid climate change is compelling: sea levels have risen, global temperatures have risen, oceans are warming, ice sheets are shrinking, there is less Arctic sea ice, glaciers are retreating, there are more extreme weather events, ocean waters are becoming more acidic, and there is less snow cover. By rolling back climate change regulations, we are placing the future of our planet in even greater peril. We owe it to future generations to turn back the effects of climate change.

**Document: 700.11 (passed on Consent Calendar 6/5/2017)**
**Name: Affordable Health Care**
**Authors: NIC Methodist Federation for Social Action and NIC Reconciling Ministries**
**Network Taskforce**

**CCFA Comment:**

**ACTION:**
The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church calls upon President Donald Trump and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan to work in a bipartisan manner to expand the Affordable Care Act and continue to aggressively work to make healthcare affordable for all. A letter to this effect will be sent to President Trump and Speaker Ryan and will be made available for all Northern Illinois United Methodists to affirm by sending as individuals or congregations.

**RATIONALE:**
The Affordable Care Act decreased the number of uninsured by 24 million. Thirty two states (including Washington DC) have adopted the Medicaid extension, and had fewer uninsured than those who had not adopted it (7.3% to 14.1%). A study by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality estimates that the ACA is responsible for preventing nearly 50,000 deaths. It is not a perfect healthcare law, but working in a bipartisan manner, it can be improved. The effort in the US House of Representatives to repeal and replace earlier this year would have
leave many without healthcare options, and it would increase costs for those in healthcare plans. Efforts should be made to expand the provisions to cover even more people and work toward keeping overall costs low.

**Document: 700.12**

**Name: Supporting Sanctuary in NIC**

**Author(s):** Rev. Paula Cripps-Vallejo; Rev. Luis F. Reyes; Rev. Alka Lyall; Rev. David Aslesen; Elisa Gatz, Co-Lay Leader of NIC and member of Wesley United Methodist Church, Sterling; NIC Committee on Native American Ministries, NIC Hispanic/Latino Caucus

**CCFA Comment:**

**ACTION:**
The Northern Illinois Conference declares solidarity with all individuals and families regardless of their refugee or immigration status or documentation, and with those who come to their aid, and takes the following actions:

1. The Northern Illinois Conference encourages all of its congregations, boards, and other bodies to engage, before the next Annual Conference Session, in intentional education and relationship-building regarding welcome, ministry, and advocacy with persons regardless of their refugee or immigration status or documentation.

2. The Northern Illinois Conference encourages all of its congregations, boards, and other bodies to prayerfully discern actions they can take in their particular ministry context and connectionally to extend greater hospitality, greater ministries of justice and compassion, and/or increased advocacy for and with all people regardless of their refugee or immigration status or documentation, and when and where feasible to take those actions.

3. The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church affirms that a sanctuary is not only a space for worship, but is primarily a place of refuge and safety; the NIC therefore recognizes that when a congregation or other body of the Conference discerns and declares itself a “Sanctuary” or in “Solidarity,” this definition applies to all properties owned or held in trust by and/or all ministry programs offered by that member congregation or group.

**RATIONAL:**
There is a strong Biblical mandate to care for persons who become displaced or have the status of immigrant or refugee, rooted in the experiences of the Hebrew people enduring and escaping from oppression in Egypt, and in Jesus’ family fleeing the violence of Herod (see Genesis 12:10 – Abram flees famine, Exodus 1 – the people face oppression in Egypt and will later escape, Leviticus 19:33-34 - the people are commanded to treat “aliens” with fairness because they were once aliens themselves, Matthew 2:13-15 – Jesus’ parents flee Herod, Hebrews 13:1-2 – the people are encouraged to show hospitality to strangers).
The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church state: “We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all. We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families” (Book of Discipline 2016, ¶162 H).

The Northern Illinois Conference has a strong history of advocating for and with all persons, regardless of their country of origin and regardless of their immigration status or documentation, through the work of Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) and recent training events, and regardless of their class, race, sexual orientation or gender identity, origin. NIL has strongly spoken against any injustice and created a safe place for all who find themselves in a minority.

The Sanctuary Movement in the United States, past and present, calls upon churches to be public and intentional in offering hospitality, shelter, resources, and logistical and legal assistance to individuals and families regardless of their refugee or immigration status or documentation.

Document: 700.13
Name: A Call to End Gun Violence
CCFA Comment: CCFA Comment will be coming — it will be an additional download available on the Conference website no later than May 9.

ACTIONS:
The Northern Illinois Conference will establish the elimination of gun violence as a priority. In establishing the elimination of handgun violence as a priority, the Northern Illinois Conference (NIC) will work in collaboration with organizations like the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, Heeding God’s Call, Community Renewal Society and Live Free Chicago. This collaborative work will include:

Equipping & Educating Congregations and Communities by:
• Making a visible witness to the sin of gun violence and the hope of healing our communities
• Equipping local churches to include gun violence prevention in sermons, Bible studies, prayers and conversations.
Advocating for Greater Regulation by:

- Developing advocacy groups in local churches and districts that will work toward
  impacting public policy around gun violence, with particular emphasis on
  handguns, handgun ammunition, assault weapons, automatic weapon conversion
  kits and guns that cannot be detected by traditionally used metal-detection devices.
- Advocating for local, statewide and federal legislation that will regulate the
  manufacture, sale and registration of guns. This legislation should include
  provisions for:
  - Universal background checks
  - Ensuring guns are sold through licensed retailers
  - Prohibiting all individuals convicted of violent crimes from purchasing a gun
    for a fixed time period
  - Prohibiting all individuals under restraining order due to threat of violence
    from purchasing a gun
  - Prohibiting persons with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to
    themselves and their communities, from purchasing a gun
  - Ensuring greater access to services for those suffering from mental illness
  - Establishing a minimum age of 21 years for a gun purchase or possession
  - Banning large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire
    multiple rounds each time the trigger is pulled
  - Promoting new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies to trace crime
    guns and promote public safety.
  - Calling on federal and state governments to provide significant assistance to
    victims of gun violence.
  - Calling on state legislature to address the lack of economic opportunity
    fueling gun violence, and to avoid just focusing on legislation that increases
    sentences for gun possession without also addressing economic development
    (jobs) and penalties for those who illegally sell guns. Thusly, call our
    representatives to avoid further disproportionately imprisoning persons from
    racial minority communities without working to remediate the underlying
    causes.
  - Encouraging congregations to partner with local law-enforcement agencies
    and community based organizations to identify gun retailers that engage in

1 http://concertacrossamerica.org
2 http://www.decembersabbath.org
Developing Programs to:

- Create or support safe places for children and youth when out of school, such as “Safe Havens,” Camps, After School/Out of School time programs.
- Create restorative justice peace hubs in communities most impacted by gun violence.
- Offer services including but not limited to: job training, resume workshops, job fairs, social workers, job developers, entrepreneurship funding, and budgeting workshops, to address the need for economic opportunity in communities impacted by gun violence.

RATIONALE:
The 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church passed a resolution based on Matthew 5:9 and Micah 4:1-4, stating the following:

“In days to come, / the mountain of the LORD's house / shall be established as the highest of the mountains, / and shall be raised up above the hills. / Peoples shall stream to it, / and many nations shall come and say: / 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, / to the house of the God of Jacob; / that he may teach us his ways / and that we may walk in his paths.' / For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, / and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. / He shall judge between many peoples, / and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; / they shall beat their swords into plowshares, / and their spears into pruning hooks; / nation shall not lift up sword against nation, / neither shall they learn war any more; / but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, / and no one shall make them afraid; / for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken” NRSV

Micah’s prophetic dream points to a time when all peoples will journey to God’s presence so God “may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths” (4:2). Micah describes God as the final judge and the nations will travel to God’s presence out of their desire to live in peace without violence and bloodshed.

Therefore, “we call upon United Methodists to address gun violence in their local context”.

We, as United Methodists in the Northern Illinois Conference affirm this call and seek to clarify the ways we are called to live out this resolution within our conference.

Each year in America, on average over 100,000 people are shot in murders, assaults, suicides & suicide attempts, unintentional shootings, or by police intervention. Of that number, 30,000 people (including children) die each year from gun violence.

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3 See full text here: http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/gun-violence
4 www.bradycampaign.org
On June 21, 2016, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle alongside Cook County Hospital executives and other elected officials endorsed a statement made by the American Medical Association classifying gun violence as a “public health crisis.”

In Chicago alone, in 2017 over 700 people lost their lives to gun violence. This statistic only increases when we look at our conference as a whole, beyond city and county limits. One fact remains for every single church and every single United Methodist in the Northern Illinois Conference; we are living in an epidemic of violence, and remain silent about it when considering its social/economic costs and the lives of Christ’s beloved people are at risk.

Document: 700.14
Name: Organizational Structure for the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Author: Organizational Task Force
CCFA Comment: CCFA Comment will be coming – it will be an additional download available on the Conference website no later than May 9.

ACTION:
Adopt and implement an organizational structure for the Northern Illinois Conference (“NIC”).

Organizational Structure for the Northern Illinois Annual Conference (“NIC”)

I. Shepherding Teams. The organizational structure shall be centered on an Annual Conference Shepherding Team (“ACST”). There shall be a separate District Shepherding Team (DST) in each of the districts. One member of each DST (6 members in total) shall also serve as a member of the ACST as outlined below. The ACST shall be an adaptive learning organization whose primary purposes shall be to coordinate and communicate the ministry of the NIC for the sake of making disciples for Jesus Christ. The primary purposes of each DST shall be to coordinate the equipping of local churches so that they might be faithful, Christ-centered communities of worship, prayer, witness and change, and to enhance the connection between local churches, the districts and the NIC.

II. Definitions.
   a. Diversity. The term “Diversity” shall mean the inclusion of individuals who differ in race, culture, national origin, geographic residence, gender, sexual orientation, age and lay or clergy status for the purpose of benefitting from varied experiences and perspectives. The commitment to diversity and inclusion is rooted in a deep desire to embody and reflect God’s vision for all of creation.

b. Ethnic Caucus. The term “Ethnic Caucus” shall refer to a group organized for the purpose of advocating for the participation and priorities of a particular ethnic group, and recognized by the NIC. Currently, the NIC recognizes The Fellowship of Asian Americans, Black Methodists for Church Renewal and El Concilio as Ethnic Caucuses.

III. Annual Conference Shepherding Team (“ACST”)

a. Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the ACST shall include,
   i. Leading as a learning organization in addressing the technical and adaptive, challenges and opportunities presented to the NIC.
   ii. Providing coordination of the ministry, mission and vision of the NIC.
   iii. Discerning a 5-year vision plan; presenting it for approval by NIC; communicating it throughout the NIC, monitoring and adapting it on an annual basis.
   iv. Focusing NIC resources to equip local churches and ministry settings to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
   v. Facilitating communication and healthy relationships between districts, NIC leadership, staff, committees and ministries.
   vi. Advocating, monitoring and celebrating diversity at every level of leadership throughout the NIC.
   vii. Stewarding financial and leadership resources for maximum missional impact. The role of the ACST in the budgeting process shall be to augment the existing process in which the budget is prepared by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (“CCFA”) and approved by the NIC. The ACST shall consult with CCFA in the allocation of resources according to the missional priorities of the NIC.
   viii. Resolving leadership and function questions that do not require approval by the NIC between annual conference sessions.
   ix. Guiding the NIC in the event of a significant shift in the denomination or jurisdictional realignment of conferences.
   x. Adapting the organizational structure further to align with the missional priorities of the NIC.
   xi. Developing clear and concise qualitative and quantitative metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of ACST structure and work.
   xii. Reporting annually to NIC on fulfillment of the above responsibilities.

b. Core Areas of focus. The ACST shall prayerfully focus on the following Core Areas of priority identified in the Landscape process:
   i. Congregational Life
      1. Creating and revitalizing congregational cultures that are deep in faith and engaged for evangelism.
      2. Developing new churches and faith communities.
      3. Assessing and reconfiguring local churches.
   ii. Clergy Life
      1. Fostering clergy health and morale.
2. Fostering an environment that identifies and supports persons with a clear sense of call and commitment to set apart ministry.
3. Fostering on-going faith formation.
4. Ensuring development and accountability of clergy.

iii. Missional Life
1. Equipping, supporting and connecting local churches for missions of mercy (direct service) in their local communities, across the NIC and beyond.
2. Equipping, supporting and connecting local churches for justice (systemic change) work in their local communities, across the state and beyond.
3. Advocating diversity, inclusiveness and cultural competency.

iv. Connectional Resources
1. Managing and allocating conference resources toward NIC vision and strategy.
2. Evaluating, assessing and communicating the apportionment formula on an on-going basis.
3. Developing systems of administration for use by local churches.

20 c. Membership.

21 i. Members. The ACST shall have the following members:
22 • Voice and Vote (20 Members)
23   o Co-Chair – Lay
24   o Co-Chair – Clergy
25   o Conference Lay Leader
26   o Board of Trustees, Chair or Designate
27   o Council on Finance and Administration, Chair or Designate
28   o Committee on Nominations, Chair or Designate
29   o Board of Ordained Ministry, Chair or Designate
30   o Annual Conference Committee, Chair or Designate
31   o Church Development and Revitalization, Designate
32   o Age Level Ministries, Designate
33   o Justice and Mercy Ministries, Designate
34   o 3 Ethnic Caucus Designates
35   o Aurora DST, Chair (Clergy though 2020)
36   o Chicago Northwest DST, Chair (Lay though 2020)
37   o Chicago Southern DST, Chair (Clergy though 2020)
38   o DeKalb DST, Chair (Lay though 2020)
39   o Elgin DST, Chair (Lay though 2020)
40   o Rockford DST, Chair (Clergy though 2020)
41 • Voice Only; No Vote (3 Members)
42   o Bishop
43   o Director of Connectional Ministries
44   o Communications Staff Member
ii. **Selection of Members.** Members of the ACST shall be selected, as follows:

1. Co-Chairs shall be appointed by the Bishop.
2. Conference Lay Leader shall be chosen per Disciplinary requirements in the ordinary course of the nominations process.
3. Chairs of Board of Trustees, Council on Finance and Administration, Committee on Nominations, Board of Ordained Ministry and Annual Conference Committee shall be chosen per Disciplinary requirements in the ordinary course of the nominations process. In the event that a member of a committee, council or board is to be designated as the member of the ACST in place of the chair, such committee, council or board shall adopt its own process for designation.
4. Designates of Church Development and Revitalization, Age Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries shall each be chosen separately, according to the following process:
   a. The chairs of the Constituent Groups of Church Development and Revitalization, Age Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries shall gather in separate meetings, each convened by the Director of Connectional Ministries for the purpose of nominating 3 candidates for each Designate position.

The initial Constituent Groups for purposes of nominating candidates to be the first Designates to the ACST shall be:

1. Church Development and Revitalization (7 Constituent Groups)
   - Committee of Accessibility Ministries
   - Congregational Development and Redevelopment (Code Red)
   - Evangelism Work Area
   - National Plans (Hispanic, Korean, Asian Language, Pacific Islander – all related to GBGM)
   - Strengthening the Black Church in the 21st Century (SBC21)
   - Spiritual Formation Work Area
   - Worship Work Area

2. Age Level Ministries (8 Constituent Groups)
   - Children’s Ministries
   - Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (CBHECM)
   - Education Work Area
   - Older Adult Ministries
   - Outdoor and Retreat Ministries (ORM)
3. Justice and Mercy Ministries (8 Constituent Groups)
   - Board of Church and Society
   - Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations (CCUIR)
   - Commission on Religion and Race (CORR)
   - Commission on Status and Role of Women (CSROW)
   - Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns
   - Native American Ministries
   - Restorative and Transformative Justice
   - Conference Board of Global Ministries (CBGM), including:
     - Conference Mission Secretary
     - District Mission Secretaries
     - District United Methodist Women (UMW) Representatives
     - Disaster Coordinator
     - Hunger Coordinator
     - Refugee Coordinator
     - Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Coordinator
     - Urban Ministries
     - Rural (Keagy) Ministries
     - United Methodist Women Representative
     - United Methodist Men Representative

b. The Committee on Nominations shall select each Designate from among the 3 nominees with the primary objective of ensuring diversity on the ACST.

5. Designates of the Ethnic Caucuses shall be chosen by the Ethnic Caucuses pursuant to their own process for designation.

6. Chairs of the DSTs shall be chosen as outlined in Paragraph IV.b.ii., below.

iii. Qualifications and Commitment of Members.

1. Co-Chairs and Designates of Church Development and Revitalization, Age Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy
Ministries shall serve on the ACST exclusively; they shall not serve in other positions in the NIC or an Ethnic Caucus.

2. Designates of Church Development and Revitalization, Age Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries shall have demonstrated a genuine interest and concern in most, if not all, of the Constituent Groups being represented and commitment to keeping up with their work and concerns.

3. Members of the ACST shall have demonstrated a genuine interest and commitment to stewardship of the mission, priorities and vision of the NIC.

4. Members of the ACST shall be expected to attend meetings themselves to ensure the cohesion and continuity of the team. As shared experience contributes to shared visioning and leadership, there is no substitute for attendance.

iv. Terms.

1. To ensure both continuity as well as constant renewal of the ACST, Voting Members shall be limited to a single term of four (4) years unless membership derives from a position in the NIC having different term requirements.

2. Co-Chairs of the ACST shall serve 2 years as Vice Chair followed by 2 years as Chair. The first Chair shall commence his/her term on or about November 2017, serve as Chair for 2 years and rotate off the ACST on June 30, 2020. The first Vice Chair shall commence his/her term on or about November 2017, become Chair on July 1, 2020, and rotate off on June 30, 2022. A new Vice Chair will commence his/her term every 2 years as the previous Vice Chair rotates to the Chair position.

3. To ensure continuity, Members shall serve four year terms commencing either,
   a. July 1, 2020, and on July 1 of each year of a General Conference. The initial term of those in such positions shall not be a full four years; it shall commence on or about November 2017 and terminate on June 30, 2020, or
   b. July 1, 2022, and on July 1 of each year which is two years after the year of a General Conference. The first term of those in such positions shall commence on or about November 2017 and terminate on June 30, 2022.

4. The Conference Lay Leader and the Chairs or Designates of the Board of Trustees, Council on Finance and Administration, Committee on Nominations, Board of Ordained Ministry and Annual Conference Committee shall serve terms pursuant to Paragraph III.c.iv.2.a., above.

5. Designates of Ethnic Caucuses shall serve terms pursuant to Paragraph III.c.iv.2.a., above.
6. Designates of Church Development and Revitalization, Age Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries shall serve terms pursuant to Paragraph III.c.iv.2.b., above.

7. Co-Chairs of the DSTs who serve on the ACST pursuant to Paragraph IV.b.iv.2., below, shall serve terms pursuant to Paragraph III.c.iv.2.b., above.

- **Meetings.** The ACST shall meet at least four (4) times per year. Each meeting shall have a focus such as analysis and review of the budget, preparation for Annual Conference, leadership development and learning, and acquiring input for more effective ministry. The schedule and topics of meetings shall be determined by the ACST.

## IV. District Shepherding Teams (“DST”)

### a. Responsibilities.** The responsibilities of each DST shall include,

i. **Leading as a learning organization in addressing the technical and adaptive, challenges and opportunities presented to the District.**

ii. **Coordinating the equipping of local churches and enhancing the connection between local churches.**

   1. **Ascertaining information, such as,**
      
      a. Celebrations and best practices,
      
      b. Challenges and shared needs,
      
      c. Opportunities for shared ministries.

   2. **Providing or directing local churches to training opportunities suited to the particular district.**

iii. **Communicating local needs, challenges and celebrations to ACST for coordinated resourcing and sharing.**

iv. **Communicating vision and ministry priorities of NIC to the district and local churches and coordinating implementation as best lived out in the district.**

### b. Membership.

- **Members.** Each DST shall have the following members:

  - **Voice and Vote (11+ Members)**
    
    o Co-Chair – District Lay Leader
    
    o Co-Chair – Clergy
    
    o District Lay Leader(s) (in districts with multiple lay leaders, all shall be members of the DST; one at a time shall serve as Co-Chair)
    
    o Board on Church Location and Building, Chair or Designate
    
    o District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Chair or Designate
    
    o New Church Development and Revitalization Team (formerly District Strategy Team), Chair or Designate
ii. **Selection of Members.** Members of each DST shall be selected, as follows:

1. District Lay Leader(s) shall be chosen per Disciplinary requirements in the ordinary course of the nominations process.
2. Chairs of Board on Church Location and Building, Committee on Ordained Ministry and New Church Development and Revitalization Team (formerly District Strategy Team) shall be chosen per Disciplinary requirements. In the event that a member of a committee, board or team is to be designated as the member of the ACST in place of the chair, such committee, board or team shall adopt its own process for designation.
3. Clergy Co-Chair shall be selected by the District Lay Leader(s) and District Superintendent.
4. At Large Lay and Clergy Members shall be selected by the District Lay Leader(s) and District Superintendent.
   a. They may represent the particular ministry priorities of each district, e.g., they may include cluster leaders, Lay Servant Academy directors, representatives from mission agencies in the district, etc.
   b. They may be selected from among recommendations solicited at annual church conferences or other district entities.

iii. **Qualifications and Commitment of Members.** Members of the DST shall be expected to attend meetings themselves to ensure the cohesion and continuity of the team. As shared experience contributes to shared visioning and leadership, there is no substitute for attendance.

iv. **Terms.**

1. To ensure reinvigoration of the DST, Members shall be limited to a single term of four (4) years unless membership derives from a position having different term requirements.
2. To ensure equal representation of laity and clergy on the ACST at any one time, half the districts shall be represented by the Lay Co-Chair and the other half shall be represented by the Clergy Co-Chair.
   a. On the initial ACST, through June 30, 2022, the DST representatives shall be:
      i. Aurora DST – Clergy Co-Chair
      ii. Chicago Northwest DST – Lay Co-Chair
iii. Chicago Southern DST – Clergy Co-Chair
iv. DeKalb DST – Lay Co-Chair
v. Elgin DST – Lay Co-Chair
vi. Rockford DST – Clergy Co-Chair

b. From July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026, the DST representatives shall be:

vii. Aurora DST – Lay Co-Chair
viii. Chicago NW DST – Clergy Co-Chair
ix. Chicago S DST – Lay Co-Chair
x. DeKalb DST – Clergy Co-Chair
xi. Elgin DST – Clergy Co-Chair
xii. Rockford DST – Lay Co-Chair

4. To ensure continuity, Members shall have four year terms commencing either,
a. July 1, 2020, and on July 1 of each year of a General Conference. The initial term of those in such positions shall not be a full four years; it shall commence on or about November 2017 and terminate on June 30, 2020, or
b. July 1, 2022, and on July 1 of each year which is two years after the year of a General Conference. The first term of those in such positions shall commence on or about November 2017 and terminate on June 30, 2022.

5. The District Lay Leader(s) and the Chairs of Board on Church Location and Building, Committee on Ordained Ministry and New Church Development and Revitalization Team (formerly District Strategy Team) shall serve terms pursuant to Paragraph to Paragraph IV.b.iv.4.a., above.

6. The At Large Lay and Clergy Members shall serve terms pursuant to Paragraph IV.b.iv.4.b., above.

c. **Meetings.** Each DST shall meet at least four (4) times per year. The schedule and topics of meetings shall be determined by each DST.

**V. Diversity of Membership on ACST and DSTs.**

a. The Committee on Nominations and Bishop shall make diversity of the ACST a primary consideration in,

i. Appointment of Co-Chairs,

ii. Selection of NIC Lay Leader(s),

iii. Composition of the Board of Trustees, Conference Council on Finance and Administration, Committee on Nominations, Board of Ordained Ministry and Annual Conference Committee, which choose or elect Chairs or Designates to serve on the ACST,

iv. Selection of Designates of Church Development and Revitalization, Age Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries.

b. Each District Superintendent and District Lay Leader(s) shall make diversity in each DST a primary consideration in,
i. Selection of District Lay Leader(s) and Lay Co-Chair,
ii. Selection of Clergy Co-Chair,
iii. Rotation of DST Co-Chairs onto the ACST,
iv. Selection of Chairs of Board on Church Location and Building, District Committee on Ordained Ministry and New Church Development and Revitalization Team (formerly District Strategy Team),
v. Selection of At Large Lay and Clergy Members.

VI. Evaluation of Structure. The organizational structure of ACST and DSTs shall be subject to formal evaluation at Annual Conferences in 2019, 2020 and quadrennially thereafter. This evaluation of structure shall be separate from annual reports on the substantive work of the ACST provided for in Paragraph III.a.xii., above.

   a. The evaluation of structure shall consider features of the ACST and DSTs or their objectives, such as,
      i. Diversity of the ACST and DSTs
      ii. Quality of Communication by ACST and DSTs
      iii. Flexibility and Adaptability of ACST and DSTs to particular issues or events
      iv. Improving Clergy Morale
      v. Equipping Local Churches
      vi. Strengthening the Connection
      vii. Streamlining committees and enhancing effectiveness of leadership structure
      viii. Recruitment of new leaders from across the NIC

   b. The evaluation of structure shall poll groups such as,
      i. Local congregations and faith communities
      ii. NIC committees, councils and boards

   c. The evaluation of structure shall be conducted via a mechanism such as,
      i. Electronic Survey
      ii. Listening Sessions

VII. Initial Formation of Organizational Structure. The formation of the ACST and DSTs shall proceed along a timeline which shall include, but not be limited to, the following milestones:

   ▪ Summer and Fall 2017
     o Members of the ACST shall be selected pursuant to Paragraph III.c.ii., above.
     o Members of the DSTs shall be selected pursuant to Paragraph IV.b.ii., above.
   ▪ Fall 2017. Cabinet shall include in the agenda for local church conferences,
     o an explanation of the ACST and the role of the DST in coordinating the equipping local churches and rejuvenating the connection, and
- an opportunity for local congregations to recommend individuals to serve as At Large Lay and Clergy Members.

- **November 11, 2017. First meeting of the ACST.** The focus shall be on organization, orientation and learning of members of the ACST.

- **January 20, 2018. Second meeting of the ACST.** The focus shall be on learning with leaders of existing committees and obtaining their input. The schedule and topics of future meetings shall be determined by the ACST.

- **Annual Conference 2019 and 2020 and quadrennially thereafter**
  - Report by ACST to Annual Conference regarding assessment of structure;
  - Opportunity for feedback from Annual Conference;
  - Possible submission of legislation proposing adaptation of structure. Such adaptive legislation may be proposed at any annual conference.

- **July 2020. Rotation of Membership.**
  - The first Chair of the ACST shall rotate off the ACST. The first Vice Chair shall become Chair and a new Vice Chair shall be appointed by the Bishop.
  - The Conference Lay Leader and Chairs or Designates of Board of Trustees, Council on Finance and Administration, Committee on Nominations, Board of Ordained Ministry and Annual Conference Committee shall change per Disciplinary requirements in the ordinary course of the nominations process.
  - Designates of the Ethnic Caucuses shall rotate off the ACST and be replaced by newly selected Designates.
  - The District Lay Leader(s) and the Chairs or Designates of Board on Church Location and Building, District Committee on Ordained Ministry and New Church Development and Revitalization Team (formerly District Strategy Team) shall change per Disciplinary requirements in the ordinary course of the nominations process.

- **July 2022. Rotation of Membership.**
  - The second Chair of the ACST shall rotate off the ACST. The Vice Chair shall become Chair and a new Vice Chair shall be appointed by the Bishop.
  - Designates of Church Development and Revitalization, Age Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries shall rotate off the ACST and be replaced by Designates newly selected by their respective Constituent Groups.
  - Co-Chairs representing DSTs on the ACST shall rotate. Those DSTs previously represented by the Lay Co-Chair shall begin to be represented by the Clergy C-Chair and vice versa.
  - At Lay and Clergy Members of the DSTs shall rotate off the DST and be replaced by newly selected Members.
VIII. Future Legislation.
   a. Following adoption of this resolution, the Standing Rules of the NIC will be updated to reflect these changes and presented to the Annual Conference in 2018 for approval.
   b. To complete the remaining task of streamlining conference committees, the Organizational Task Force shall be reformulated to evaluate the existing committees and propose, to the Annual Conference in 2018, a streamlined committee structure as well as appropriate adaptations to the ACST and DSTs. The reformulated OTF shall include ten (10) members; five (5) shall carry forward from the existing OTF and five (5) shall be newly selected. The reformulated OTF shall include the Chair of the Committee on Nominations. The remaining 9 members shall be selected by such Chair and the Director of Connectional Ministries in consultation with the Bishop.
**RATIONALE:**

According to the *Book of Discipline*, the “annual conference is responsible for structuring its ministries and administrative procedures in order to accomplish its purpose,” It is “permitted the flexibility to design conference and district structures in ways that best support the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ . . .” ¶610

Currently, the Northern Illinois Conference (“NIC”) has 10 administrative committees, 30 program areas and dozens of task forces and special interest groups. To the extent that they are unified, it is within the Program Council. However, the Program Council accounts for only approximately 20% of the budget of the NIC. There is no central body coordinating all the ministries of the NIC.

The Cabinet provides valuable leadership on resourcing, equipping, and strategizing the ministries of NIC. However, its primary responsibilities are clergy deployment and supervision, with the District Superintendents functioning as "an extension of the superintending role of the Bishop." (BOD 403.2)

The need for a central body became apparent in the financial crisis in 2014. At that time, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration needed advice on cutting the budget but had nowhere to turn. Subsequently, the Landscape Survey in 2015 and the listening sessions in 2016 revealed a broader desire for a central body devoted to planning strategically, aligning resources with mission, coordinating and communicating the ministry of the NIC.

At the Annual Conference in 2016, the NIC adopted a resolution (Resolution 700.01) directing the formation of an Organizational Task Force (“OTF) to create a proposal for an alternative organizational structure. The resolution provides that,

- The structure could include, but would not be limited to:
  - An organizational structure that can
    - Plan strategically,
    - Align resources and mission,
    - Create an intersection between administrative, program and superintending functions,
    - Streamline the work of the conference committees,
    - Respond with flexibility,
    - Be accountable to conference membership, and
    - Act with coordinated efficiency.
  - Such a structure would enhance the focus on purpose, mission and core values, while providing a forum for communication and coordination. Resolution 700.01

The proposed organizational structure is designed to accomplish all the above goals with the exception that it does not streamline the work of conference committees. That task has been left for the future. Pending future reorganization, the existing committees have been aligned with the proposed organizational structure. Future streamlining of the underlying committees may also result in adaptation of the overarching organizational structure.

In creating the proposed structure, the OTF followed the process described in its Historical Report. It was particularly mindful of the following concepts and objectives.
Shepherding. The fundamental image for the organizational structure is that of a shepherd. It evokes the assurances of Psalm 23 and the role of the shepherd in leading the flock to green pastures, attending to the entire flock without losing sight of individual sheep, confronting times challenge and fear as well as maximizing times of ease and abundance.

The Annual Conference Shepherding Team (“ACST”) will be an adaptive learning organization that will focus on coordinating and communicating the ministry of the NIC. Each District Shepherding Team (“DST”) will focus on coordinating the equipping of local churches and enhancing the connection between them, the districts and the NIC.

Efficiency and Flexibility. The ACST is not intended to be a connectional table or a committee of chairs including representatives of all the discrete committees (currently, in excess of 40). It is intended to be a small, nimble team in which all members are charged with focusing on all aspects of ministry and creating a unified strategy for the NIC. Particular members will be selected to inform that strategy with the perspectives and priorities of broad areas of ministry. Further, at least one meeting of the ACST per year will be devoted to seeking input from the discrete committees.

Equipping, Coordinating and Communicating. The role of the ACST and DSTs will be to equip, coordinate and communicate the ministry of the NIC. The committees of the NIC and districts and the local churches will continue to perform the ministry. In the process, they will inform the DSTs and ACST and contribute to shaping the ministry of the NIC for the future.

Learning. The ACST is intended to be a learning organization that encourages and facilitates the learning, critical thinking and experimentation of its members, communicates new knowledge throughout the NIC for incorporation in ministries of the districts and local churches, and continuously transforms itself to adapt to the challenges and opportunities for ministry in the NIC.

Diversity and Advocacy. Diversity and advocacy for the role and priorities of groups who are often underrepresented are important means to the end of pursuing the ministry of the NIC which includes, nurtures and seeks justice for all in the name of Jesus Christ. With respect to racial and cultural diversity, the ACST will have three membership positions for representatives of ethnic caucuses. Currently, the NIC recognizes The Fellowship of Asian-Americans, Black Methodists for Church Renewal and El Concilio.

With respect to all aspects of diversity, the structure will rely heavily on the Committee on Nominations to create a pipeline of leaders from all of the diverse communities in the NIC to feed into leadership roles across the conference, including the DSTs and the ACST.

Together, the structure itself and the intentional, prayerful nomination and leadership selection process for all membership positions in the structure are meant to ensure diversity and advocacy. Beginning in 2019, the entire structure and its implementation will be subject to formal evaluation. The structure’s effectiveness in achieving diversity and advocacy goals will be expressly subject to such evaluation.
Adaptation. The proposed organizational structure represents a step on the journey that began with the Landscape Survey in 2015. The structure is expected to adapt over time.

Further Organizational Tasks. The proposed organizational structure is an overarching structure for the equipping, coordinating and communicating functions essential to the NIC. The underlying committee structure remains disjointed and duplicative. The Organizational Task Force will be reformulated and will evaluate the existing committees and propose a streamlined committee structure, as well as appropriate adaptations to the ACST and DSTs, to the Annual Conference in 2018.

Document: 700.15
Title: Set the Prisoner and the Oppressed Free!
Author(s): Janice Gintzler, member of Hazel Crest Community UMC.
CCFA Comment:

ACTION:
Close to the heart of Jesus was what is recorded in Luke 4:18:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.” Luke 4:18

The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church is urged to address the preponderance of people of color in the Cook County Jail that is situated on Clark Street at Van Buren in Chicago. The Conference will add its name to the list of co-endorsers of The Principles of Bail Reform in Cook County:

Principles of Bail Reform in Cook County

The pretrial detention system in Cook County needs reform. Cook County Jail incarcerates approximately 7,500 people per day. An additional 2,000 people are under the Sheriff’s supervision through electronic monitoring. More than 90% of the people detained are pretrial and thus presumed innocent—a considerably higher rate than the national rate of 67%.

Approximately two thirds of unconvicted people incarcerated or on electronic monitoring in Cook County would be free if they could afford to pay a monetary bond.

The overuse of pretrial incarceration and monitoring comes at tremendous personal cost to impacted individuals and entire communities. Pretrial detention leads to lost jobs, lost housing, and even lost custody of children. In addition, people detained pretrial are more likely to be convicted. They also receive longer sentences compared to people released pretrial with similar backgrounds and charges. African Americans receive disproportionately high monetary bonds and are disproportionately unable to pay these bonds. Seventy-three percent of the people incarcerated in the Cook County Jail are African American despite the fact that African Americans make up only 25% of Cook County’s population. The twenty-seven percent who are non-African Americans are also low income working people who suffer from detentions.
Recent history has shown that the population of Cook County Jail can be decreased substantially with no impact on public safety or court appearance rates. The following six principles provide guidance for reform efforts designed to reduce the number of people incarcerated pretrial in Cook County Jail.

1. Pretrial detention and other restrictions on liberty should be used only as a last resort to ensure community safety and the defendant’s appearance in court due to previous failure to appear.

2. Access to money should not determine whether or not an accused person is detained in jail or subject to other conditions pending trial.

3. Pretrial services programs should be used to promote court attendance and provide needed services and not place unnecessary conditions on the accused person.

4. Conditions of bail should not prevent an accused person from performing basic personal responsibilities, impose direct or indirect economic costs, or unduly expose the accused person to new criminal charges.

5. Data on detention and release outcomes should be collected and made available for public review and system assessment purposes. Risk assessments, if used, must be validated, transparent, and their impact must be tracked.

6. Administrative reforms should be made to ensure court practices conform to the law. Judges should receive education and training consistent with existing law and these principles.

The prison ministry at the Unitarian Church of Hyde Park, led by Evan Freund and with the help of The People’s Lobby and the Community Renewal Society had HB3421 introduced on March 31, 2017 into the Illinois General Assembly.

Some of the organizations already endorsing the Principles are
A Just Harvest
Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice
Chicago Community Bond Fund
Chicago Council of Lawyers
The Sargent Shriver National Center of Poverty Law

**RATIONALE:**

The current bail system in Illinois is broken. In the overcrowded Cook County Jail alone, there are more than 7,000 inmates on an average day. 95% of those admitted to the jail are pretrial detainees, mostly there because they cannot afford bail. Over 4,400 people in Cook County Jail at any given time are there because they are poor.

Let us live our faith and endorse the Principles.
ACTION:

The Northern Illinois Annual Conference shall amend the Standing Rules I.C.1. in the following ways:

All Historical Reports (400 and 500 series documents), including all financial matters pertaining thereto, for the previous calendar/conference year, are to be in the hands of the Chair of Daily Procedure in whatever format specified by her/him, no later than March 1 April 1 immediately preceding the called session of annual conference...

Resolutions regarding Standing Rules and By-Laws are to be submitted by the March 1st April 1st deadline.

RATIONALE:

This change reflects the actual practice that has been used in the annual conference for the last number of years.